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(54) **Immunogenic hybrid protein OprF-OprI derived from Pseudomonas aeruginosa membrane proteins**

(57) The present invention relates to a hybrid protein comprising the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein I (OprI) which is fused with its amino terminal end to the carboxy-terminal end of a carboxy-terminal portion of the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein F (OprF), as well as to monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies against this hybrid protein. Both, the hybrid protein and the antibodies directed to the hybrid protein confer protection against an infection by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to laboratory animals or man.

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Description

The present invention relates to a hybrid protein comprising the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein I (OprI or OMPI) which is fused with its amino terminal end to the carboxy-terminal end of a carboxy-terminal portion of the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein F (OprF or OMPF), as well as to monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies against this hybrid protein. Both, the hybrid protein and the antibodies directed to the hybrid protein confer protection against an infection by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to laboratory animals or man.

Pseudomonas aeruginosa is an opportunistic gram-negative pathogen. It represents a major cause of hospital-acquired infections, especially in burnt and other immuno-compromised patients, including transplant or cancer patients. Therefore, it is regarded as a "problem microbe" in human medicine.

Many efforts have been made so far in order to develop a vaccine against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. For example, in the EP-0 297 291 the complete amino acid sequence of the outer membrane protein F, as well as the nucleotide sequence coding for OprF is disclosed. In the EP-0 357 024 the complete amino acid sequence of the outer membrane protein I and, additionally, the nucleotide sequence coding for OprI is shown. Furthermore, with both proteins it was shown that they may be useful for conferring immuno protection against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to an animal or human proband. However, improvement of procedures of vaccination against a lethal *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection is still an object.

Surprisingly, it was found by the inventors that a hybrid protein, wherein OprI is linked with its N-terminal end to a C-terminal portion of OprF is significantly more immunogenic than fusion proteins only comprising OprI or OprF or mixtures of the latter fusion proteins.

Thus, the present invention relates to a hybrid protein comprising the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein I which is fused with its amino-terminal end to the carboxy-terminal end of a carboxy-terminal portion of the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein F, said carboxy-terminal portion comprising the sequence from aa 190 to aa 350. In a preferred embodiment said carboxy terminal portion is the sequence from aa 190 to aa 342.

The present invention further relates to a hybrid protein comprising the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein I which is fused with its amino terminal end to the carboxy-terminal end of a carboxy-terminal portion of the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein OprF, wherein said carboxy-terminal portion comprises one or more of the surface-exposed B-cell epitopes SEE 1, SEE 2, SEE 3 and SEE 4. These B-cell epitopes are located at the following amino acid (aa) positions of the OprF: SEE 1 = aa 212-240, SEE 2 = aa 243-256, SEE 3 = aa 285-298 and SEE 4 = aa 332-350 (see example 1 and Hughes et al. (1992), Infect. Immun. 60, pp. 3497-3503).

Another embodiment of the present invention is a vaccine comprising at least one of the above-mentioned hybrid proteins.

Moreover, the present invention relates to monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies directed to one or more of the above hybrid proteins. These antibodies may also be used in a vaccine in order to confer passive protection against an infection by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to a subject.

Further aspects of the present invention are nucleic acids which are coding for the above-mentioned hybrid proteins.

Additionally, the present invention relates to a process for the preparation of the above-mentioned hybrid proteins, which comprises bringing about the expression of a nucleic acid as mentioned above, which is coding for a hybrid protein according to the invention, in pro- or eukaryotic cells.

The invention is further explained in detail in the examples which follow and in the claims.

In the following the sources of the microorganisms and the DNAs as well as methods that were used in the following examples, and which are for example regarded useful for carrying out the invention are indicated.

Microorganisms: *P. aeruginosa* International Antigenic Typing Scheme serogroup I (ATCC 33348) was obtained from A. Bauernfeind, Max. von Pettenkofer-Institut, University of Munich. Bacteria were grown and adjusted to the required concentration as previously described (Finke, M. et al. (1990), Infect. Immun., 58, pp. 2241-2244). For the expression of recombinant proteins *E. coli* K-12 W3110 lacI^qL8 was used. For expression of OPRs in yeast we used *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain HT393 (leu2, ura3 pra1, prb1, prc1, pre1, cps1).

Source of DNAs: Three recombinant plasmids were used as the source of DNAs: pFSaul, a pUC19 derived plasmid that contains a 1,0 kb Sau 3AI-fragment of the *P. aeruginosa* outer membrane protein F gene encoding the C-terminal part of the protein from amino acid positions 57 to 350 (Duchêne, M. et al. (1988), J. Bacteriol. 170, pp. 155-162); pITaq1, a pUC19 derived plasmid that contains a 626 bp TaqI-fragment spanning the complete OprI gene (Duchêne, M. et al. (1989), J. Bacteriol. 171, pp. 4130-4137), and the expression vector pGEX-2a originating from the vector pGEX-2T modified by the introduction of the polylinker from vector pTRC. The vector pGEX-2a contains the tac promoter followed by the coding sequence for 26 kDa *Schistosoma japonicum* glutathione-S-transferase, a cleavage site for thrombin and the pTRC specific polylinker region.

Characterization of antisera induced against synthetic peptides: Synthetic peptides representing amino acid regions 190-213 (D1), 212-240 (D2, SEE 1), 239-250 (D3), 284-316 (D4), and 332-350 (D5, SEE 4) from OprF were synthesized as described in (Roussilhon, C. E. et al. (1990) Immunol. Lett. 25, pp. 149-154). Rabbits were immunized subcutaneously at eight different locations near lymph nodes with 200 µg KLH conjugated peptide in complete Freund's

adjuvant, and reimmunized two weeks later with 400 µg of the conjugate in incomplete Freund's adjuvant. The animals received two booster injections intravenously of 150 µg and 100 µg of conjugate six and nine weeks after the first immunization. Antibody titers against peptides were measured by ELISA on plates coated with 5 ng per ml of peptide solution in 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.5 (PBS) overnight at room temperature. Plates were washed three times with 0.05 M citric acid and 0.05 M Tris, pH 7.4, and then dried over silica gel for 3 days. Rabbit sera were diluted 1:160 and saturated with *E. coli* proteins. Western blot analysis with recombinant GST fusion-proteins and immunofluorescence determinations against intact *P. aeruginosa* serogroup 11 (ATCC 33358), were carried out by a method reported in the literature (Johnson, D. A. et al. (1984) *Gene Anal. Techn.* 1, p. 3-8) Schnorr, J. B. et al. (1991), *Vaccine* 9, pp. 675-681).

Expression of OprF and OprI as glutathione-S-transferase, fusion proteins: The oligonucleotides p1 (5'-AAA GAG CTC GCT CCG GCT CCG GAA CCG GTT GCC GAC-3') with a *SacI* restriction site at the 5' end, corresponding to bases 568 to 594 of the *OprF* gene, and p2, (5'-AAA AAG CTT ACT TGG CTT CGG CTT CTA CTT CGG-3') with a *HindIII* restriction site at the 5' end, complementary to bases 1028 to 1053 of the *OprF* gene, and 10 ng of the plasmid pFSau1 were employed for a polymerase chain reaction, using the Perkin Elmer Cetus Gen-Amp Kit, which yielded a 500 bp fragment. The amplified fragment was digested with *SacI* and *HindIII* and introduced into the vector pGEX-2a to obtain plasmid pGEX-OprF, which encodes the C-terminal part of the porin *OprF* from amino acids 190 to 350. The oligonucleotides p3 (5'- CGT ACC ATG GTG AGC AGC CAC TCC AAA GAA ACC GAA GCT-3'), with an *NcoI* restriction site at the 5' end corresponding to bases 61 to 87 of the coding region of the *OprI* gene, and p4 (5'-AAA AAG CTT CTA TTA CTT GCG GCT GGC TTT TTC C-3'), with a *HindIII* restriction site at the 5' end complementary to bases 231 to 255 of the coding region of the *OprI* gene, and 10 ng of the plasmid DNA pITaq1 were used in a polymerase chain reaction to amplify a 215 bp fragment, which was then treated with the restriction enzymes *NcoI* and *HindIII* to introduce it into the corresponding sites of the expression vector pGEX-2a, in order to obtain plasmid pGEX-OprI, which encodes amino acids 21 to 83 of *OprI*.

Construction of the GST-OprI-OprF and GST-OprF-OprI hybrid genes: The oligonucleotides p1 (see above) and p5 (5'-TTC AAC GCG ACG GTT GAT AGC GCG-3') (which is complementary to bases 1003 to 1026 of the *OprF* gene) and 10 ng of the plasmid pFSau1 were used to amplify a 470 bp *OprF* fragment A, second polymerase chain reaction was carried out with 10 ng of plasmid pITaq1 and the oligonucleotides p4 (see above) and p6

(5'-GAA GGC CGC GCT ATC AAC CGT CGC GTT GAA AGC AGC CAC TCC AAA GAA ACC GAA GCT-3'),

in which nucleotides 1 through 30 correspond to bases 997 to 1026 of the *OprF* gene and nucleotides 31 through 57 correspond to bases 61 through 87 of the *OprI* coding region. This yielded a 240 bp fragment. 150 ng of both obtained DNA fragments and oligonucleotides p1 and p4 were used for a third polymerase chain reaction as described by Horton (Horton, R. M. et al. (1989), *Gene* 77, pp. 61-68). The obtained 660 bp fragment was digested with the restriction endonucleases *SacI* and *HindIII*, and introduced into the vector pGEX-2a to obtain plasmid pGEX-OprF-OprI, which encodes amino acids 190 to 342 of *OprF* and amino acids 21 to 83 of *OprI*. The oligonucleotides p3 and p7 (5'-AAA GAG CTC CTT GCG GCT GGC TTT TT CAG CAT GCG-3') with a *SacI* restriction site at the 5' end, complementary to bases 223 to 249 of the coding region from the *OprI* gene, and 10 ng of plasmid pITaq1 were used to amplify a 210 bp fragment, which was introduced into the vector pGEX2a with the help of the restriction enzymes *NcoI* and *SacI*. The obtained plasmid was digested with the enzymes *SacI* and *HindIII* to introduce a 490 bp fragment obtained by digestion of the plasmid pGEX-OprF, using the corresponding enzymes. Plasmid, pGEX-OprI-OprF encodes amino acids 21 to 83 from *OprI* and amino acids 190 to 350 from *OprF*, which are separated by a two amino acid linker introduced at the *SacI* cloning site.

Expression and purification of the recombinant proteins in *E. coli*: The four plasmids pGEX-OprF, pGEX-OprI, pGEX-OprF-OprI and pGEX-OprI-OprF were transformed into the *E. coli* K-12 strain W3110 lac I^qL8. For large scale antigen production, 5-liter bacterial cultures containing the plasmids were left to grow to OD₆₆₀=1 and the expression of the *P. aeruginosa* specific recombinant antigens induced by isopropylthiogalactoside. After disruption of the cells the four different glutathione-S-transferase fusion proteins were found to be soluble in aqueous solutions. Therefore, the four fusion proteins could be purified from crude bacterial lysates under non-denaturing conditions by affinity chromatography on immobilized glutathione to a purity of about 80 %.

Active immunization and protection experiments: 4 groups (A-D) of 68 female BALB/c Mice (10-12 weeks old) each received 100 µg of antigen: GST (A), GST-OprF + GST-OprI (B), GST-OprF-OprI (C) or GST-OprI-OprF (D), suspended in 100 µl of "ABM 2 complete" as adjuvant, (Sebak, Aidenbach) on day 0. Booster injections were given with an equal amount of antigen suspended in 100 µl Al(OH)₃ on days 14, 28 and 42. On day 49 animals were bled from the tail vein for serum collection to determine antibody titers in the pooled sera of 7-10 mice from each group. Four days later, all the animals received immunosuppressive treatment. For immunosuppression mice received three injections of

150 µg cyclophosphamide (Serva, Heidelberg, Germany) per g of body weight in 0.25 ml of phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) on days 53, 55, 57. On day 58, each antigen group was divided into 4 subgroups, I, II, III, IV, containing 16-17 animals per subgroup. The mice of groups A-D received intraperitoneally either 5×10^1 (subgroup I), 5×10^2 (subgroup II), 5×10^3 (subgroup III) or 5×10^4 (subgroup IV) CFU of *P. aeruginosa* serogroup 1. 15 additional nonimmunized mice underwent only immunosuppression without bacterial challenge. This control group was used to confirm the state of leukopenia and to exclude nonspecific infections. All surviving animals were monitored for 10 days after infection.

Expression and purification of recombinant OprF-OprI in yeast: For expression of the *P. aeruginosa* outer membrane proteins in *S. cerevisiae* the yeast/*E. coli* shuttle vector pYepsec1 (Baldari, C. et al. (1987) EMBO. J. 6, pp. 229-234) was used. This plasmid expresses polypeptides fused to the signal sequence of the *Kluyveromyces lactis* killer toxin. The NcoI/HindIII DNA fragment from pGEX-OprF-OprI, which codes for the OprF-OprI hybrid protein, was isolated, and cloned into pYepsec1, cut with BamHI and HindIII (yielding pYepsec1-F-I). The NcoI and BamHI sites were turned into blunt ends with Klenow enzyme before ligation, whereas the HindIII site was not treated. The soluble OprF-OprI hybrid protein expressed in yeast was purified by affinity chromatography, using a monoclonal antibody directed against epitope D1. The MAb was coupled to BrCN activated sepharose 4B (Pharmacia, Freiburg, Germany), in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer. Yeast extracts in PBS were loaded onto the column, unspecific bound material was eluted with 0.1 M glycine pH 9.0 buffer containing 0.5 M NaCl. Elutions of OprI-OprF hybrid protein was carried out in 0.1 M glycine buffer, pH 11.0. The column was regenerated by washing with 0.1 M glycine, pH 2.5, followed by washing with PBS.

Production of specific immunoglobulins and passive immunization: Rabbits were immunized three times with 100 µg of purified recombinant OprF-OprI isolated from *S. cerevisiae* cell extracts (or with cell extracts from *S. cerevisiae* alone as controls) emulsified in incomplete Freund adjuvant on days 0, 14 and 28. On day 38, blood samples were obtained and allowed to clot overnight at 4 °C. The serum was removed, centrifuged and stored at -20 °C. In groups of 30 female SCID mice (18-20 g, Bomholtgard, Denmark), every animal in the group received either 0.5 ml of rabbit anti OprF-OprI serum or 0.5 ml of rabbit anti yeast serum. As an additional control, the animals in one group received 0.5 ml of normal saline. Those in one additional group were injected with 0.5 ml of rabbit serum against heat inactivated cells of serogroup 1 of *P. aeruginosa*. After 3 hours, the animals of groups 1-6 were subdivided into 5 subgroups (a-e), receiving 0.5 ml of *P. aeruginosa* serogroup I suspension (10^1 , 10^2 , 10^3 , 10^4 , 10^5 CFU/ml suspended in mucin respectively). The surviving animals were observed for 1 week. 5 g mucin (Sigma, Taufkirchen, Germany) were suspended in 100 ml of distilled water, treated for 10 min. with an Ultra Turrax blender, passed through a sieve and autoclaved for 15 min at 120 °C. Shortly before use, the solution was adjusted to pH 7.2-7.4 with sterile 1N NaOH.

Examples

Example 1: Epitope mapping of OprF.

In order to identify amino acid sequence sections of OprF representing B-cell epitopes as a rational basis for the choice of an Opr-based *P. aeruginosa* vaccine, we prepared monoclonal antibodies against a recombinant protein representing amino acids 58 to 350 of OprF. Binding of the MAbs was analyzed with a series of recombinant subfragments of OprF expressed in *E. coli*. The MAbs discriminated between 5 different regions: aa 190-213 (D1), aa 212-240 (D2, SEE 1), aa 239-250 (D3), aa 284-316 (D4) and aa 332-350 (D5, SEE 4). The C-terminal part of OprF between aa 190 and aa 350 seemed therefore to cover most of the B cell epitopes of OprF. To further analyze the epitopes, synthetic peptides related to the above defined amino acid sections were prepared and conjugated to KLH. Polyclonal antisera against these peptides were raised in rabbits. Table 1 shows that peptides D1-D5 were recognized by the corresponding polyclonal antisera. The peptides D1, D2, D4 and D5 reacted with monoclonal antibodies, and peptides D2, D3, D4 and D5 were also recognized by polyclonal antibodies raised against recombinant OprF, thus confirming that these 5 epitopes are B-cell derived. Antisera raised against D3, D4 and D5 recognized OprF in Western blot analysis, but viable *P. aeruginosa* cells showed positive fluorescence only after incubations with the antisera raised against D2 and D5. These two epitopes therefore seem to be surface-exposed. Additional MAbs were identified which did not react with any of the synthetic peptides, but recognized GST-OprF and further recombinant subfragments, leading to two additional epitopes, D6 and D7, which correspond to amino acid residues 240-316 and 190-250 respectively. Therefore, the region from amino acid 190 to amino acid 350 of OprF was considered to include important antigenic regions, and we decided to ascertain whether recombinant proteins carrying these epitopes are able to confer protection in animal models.

Example 2: Epitope mapping of OprI.

With the MAbs 2A1, 6A4 and 5B4 raised against native OprI, two different epitopes have been characterized (Finke, M. et al. (1991), Infect. Immun. 59, pp. 1251-1254). MAb 2A1, which had shown protective ability against *P. aeruginosa* infection, recognized the N-terminal located epitope. Subsequent studies showed that 2A1 only binds if the entire amino acid sequence from amino acid 21 to amino acid 83 is expressed. For the construction of recombinant OprI antigens as

means of a subunit vaccine, the complete amino acid region 21-83 was therefore considered to be the most adequate antigen.

Example 3: Expression of Oprs in *E. coli*.

The efficacy of a single outer membrane protein of *P. aeruginosa* in a vaccine against *P. aeruginosa* infection might be improved by coexpression of the fused epitopes of two different Oprs. Four different glutathion-S-transferase-fusion proteins were expressed in *E. coli* in large amounts: GST-OprF_(aa 190-350), GST-OprI_(aa 21-83), GST-OprF_(aa 190-342)-OprI_(aa 21-83) and GST-OprI_(aa 21-83)-OprF_(aa 190-350) (Fig. 1). The recombinant proteins could be about 80 % purified by affinity chromatography on immobilized glutathion. Western blot analysis of the four recombinant products with the OprI specific MAbs 6A4 and 2A1 and different OprF specific MAbs directed against the epitopes D1, D2, D4, D5, D5, D6 and D7 showed that the MAb specific epitopes were expressed by the recombinant fusion proteins.

Example 4: Active immunization with *E. coli* derived fusion proteins.

Mice were immunized four times at two week intervals with 100 µg of recombinant GST linked fusion protein, or GST only, suspended in adjuvant "ABM complete". The antibody titers, each from the pooled sera of 8-10 mice, were analyzed by ELISA as well by Western blotting for binding activity against *P. aeruginosa*, and by ELISA against peptides D1-D5.

Fig. 2 shows that specific antibody titers against *P. aeruginosa* were obtained in all immunized groups up to serum dilutions 1:15625. Western blot analysis of the sera with *P. aeruginosa* polypeptides showed specific staining of OprI as well as of OprF by sera from all immunized groups. No staining of OprI or OprF was observed in the GST immunized control group. Further analysis of the sera against peptides D1-D5 (Fig. 3) showed that, in GST-OprF-OprI as well as GST-OprI-OprF immunized animals, peptides D5 and D4 predominated. In order to test whether the induced antibodies against outer membrane fusion proteins protect mice against *P. aeruginosa* infection, mice received three doses of cyclophosphamide for immunosuppression. Leukocyte counts determined in peripheral blood samples of 15 non-immunized control animals dropped to mean levels below 400/µl. One day later, the animals were challenged with either 5×10^1 , 5×10^2 , 5×10^3 or 5×10^4 CFU of *P. aeruginosa* serogroup 1. Survival of the animals was registered for one week. Fig 4 and Table 2 show the survival rates of the animals after 4 different challenge doses and the LD₅₀ values for each of the vaccines, calculated by probit regression analysis. For groups immunized with GST only or with GST-OprI-OprF, LD₅₀ values as low as 1.58 and 2.65 were calculated. Simultaneous vaccination with a mixture of GST-OprI and GST-OprF induced an increase of the LD₅₀ value to 83.3 CFU. This difference, however, was found to be not statistically significant. In contrast, after vaccination with the hybrid GST-OprF-OprI a highly significant shift of the LD₅₀ value towards 1540 CFU was calculated ($p \leq 0.001$). Compared to the GST immunized controls, a protection value of 962 was calculated for the GST-OprF-OprI group. These results could be confirmed ($p \leq 0.001$) in an identically designed second experiment.

Analysis of the data by the proportional hazard model and calculation of the reduction of the rise ratios induced by the different vaccine preparations is shown in Table 2. Vaccination with GST-OprF-OprI reduced the risc ratio highly significantly ($p \leq 0.0001$) to a value of 0.3 compared to the GST immunized controls. Even for a challenge dose of 5×10^3 CFU, a significant ($p \leq 0.0019$) reduction of the risc ratio to a value of 0.69 was calculated by backward elimination for the GST-OprF-OprI vaccinated group, with reference based on GST, GST-OprF+GST-OprI, GST-OprI-OprF immunized groups, and doses one and two (5×10^1 and 5×10^2).

Example 5: Expression of OprF-OprI in yeast.

For the expression of the OprF-OprI hybrid protein without an additional fusion component we chose as an alternative host cell *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and as plasmid pYepsec1. OprF-OprI contained in pYepsec1-F-1 (Fig. 1) was expressed only in minute amounts in *S. cerevisiae*. Since OprF as, well as OprI are exported in Pseudomonadaceae through the periplasmic space, we tried to copy the export in *S. cerevisiae*. To this end, the OprF-OprI hybrid protein was fused to the secretion signal sequence of the killer toxin (kt) of the yeast *Kluyveromyces lactis*. The tripartite hybrid protein kt. OprF-OprI encoded by pYepsec1-F-1 (Fig. 1) now consists of the following polypeptide stretches: first there are the 16 amino acids of the yeast secretion signal sequences, followed by 9 amino acids encoded by a DNA linker, and then followed by the OprF specific polypeptide stretch from amino acids 190-342 and an OprI peptide including amino acids 21-83. The OprF specific polypeptide carries the potential glycosylation site asparagine-x-threonine (see Fig. 1) twice. These glycosylation sites should be recognizable if the fusion protein enters the secretory pathway. Upon fusion to the killer toxin leader sequence, OprF-OprI was detected in yeast cell extracts by Western blot analysis, when expressed under induced condition of the UAS_{GAL}/CYC1 promoter; but no secreted antigen was detected in the culture broth.

The OprF-OprI fusion protein expressed in yeast did not migrate as a sharp band in SDS polyacrylamide gels, but showed a heterogeneous distribution, appearing in several smearing bands. This indicates posttranslational modification by N-glycosylation. Incubation of the recombinant *P. aeruginosa* antigen with endoglycosidase F resulted in the appearance of a sharp band of lower molecular weight, indicating the entering of OprF-OprI into the secretory pathway, when fused to the killer toxin leader sequence, and the glycosylation of at least one of the two potential glycosylation sites.

Example 6: Passive immunization with antibodies against yeast-derived OprF-OprI.

The recombinant *Pseudomonas* antigen was enriched from the supernatants of yeast cell extracts by ammonium salt precipitation and immunoaffinity chromatography, using an anti OprF mouse monoclonal antibody, directed against epitope D1. Rabbits were then immunized three times with the antigen, and sera were collected from the animals. Whereas the preimmune sera did not show any reactivity with either *P. aeruginosa* OprF or OprI, the sera from the immunized rabbits reacted specifically with the outer membrane proteins OprF and OprI from the three different ATCC strains of *P. aeruginosa*, as well with the three different clinical isolates of *P. aeruginosa* tested. The protective efficacy of these sera was tested in SCID mice for defence against a lethal challenge with *P. aeruginosa*. As shown in Table 3, mice injected with the control anti-yeast serum were not protected against infection even at a challenge dose of 5×10^1 (Table 3, group 1). On the other hand, mice which received the OprF-OprI specific rabbit serum were fully protected against a 5×10^2 CFU challenge dose of *P. aeruginosa* (Table 3, group 3), and 40 % survival was observed after challenge with 5×10^3 CFU. As an additional control, protection by rabbit serum induced against LPS of the challenge strain, *P. aeruginosa* serogroup 1, was tested. Up to a challenge dose of 5×10^3 , 100 % of the animals protected with LPS specific serum survived (Table 3, group 5). No survival could be observed in this group after a 10-fold higher challenge dose of 5×10^4 . Statistical analysis was used to compare the protective doses of OprF-OprI specific serum, of LPS specific serum, and the anti-yeast control group for protection against *P. aeruginosa* infection. The results showed an 85-fold increase in potency of the OprF-OprI serum in comparison with the anti yeast serum ($p \leq 0.002$ - see Table 3, group 3). As against this, a 325 higher potency was calculated for the LPS specific serum than for the anti-yeast serum ($p \leq 0.001$).

Table 1: Characterization of B cell epitopes of *P. aeruginosa* OprF

peptide	OprF specific aa region	MAbs*	rabbit anti OprF ELISA (against peptide)	rabbit antisera ** ELISA (against peptide)	rabbit antisera ** Western blot (against OprF)	rabbit antisera ** immunofluorescence of intact <i>P. aeruginosa</i> ***
D1	190-213	+	-	+	-	-
D2	212-240	+	+	+	-	+
D3	239-250	-	+	+	+	-
D4	284-216	+	+	+	+	-
D5	332-350	+	+	+	+	+

* MAbs were induced in mice against a recombinant protein representing amino acids 58-350 of OprF, binding to peptides D1-D5 was analyzed by ELISA.

** Rabbits were immunized with peptides linked to KLH.

*** estimated with *P. aeruginosa* serogroup 11 (ATCC 33359).

Table 2

Statistical analysis of survival of mic *				
	Vaccine			
	GST	GST-OprF+GST-OprI	GST-OprF-OprI	GST-OprI-OprF
LD ₅₀	1.58	83.34	1540**	2.65
Shift LD ₅₀ **	1	52	962	1.7
Risk Ratio***	1	0.732	0.344***	0.889

* mice were vaccinated with the indicated GST linked recombinant Oprs or GST as control.

** LD₅₀ values were calculated by probit analysis (Finney, D. J. (1971), Probit analysis, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge).

P<0.05 versus GST group. *P<0.0001 versus GST group.

*** Risk ratios were calculated by the proportional hazard model (Lawless, J. F (1992), Statistical Methods for Lifetime Data, John Wiley & Sons, New York) with reference based on GST group.

Table 3

Protection against <i>P. aeruginosa</i> infection in SCID mice by rabbit anti OprF-OprI sera							
Surviving animals after transfer of specific rabbit serum before challenge, group no. (n=5)							
challenge dose** (CFU)	1 yeast* control	2 yeast* control 1:10	3 OprF-OprI*	4 OprF-OprI* 1:10	5 <i>P. aeruginosa</i> ***	6 challenge control	7 mucin control
5 x 10 ⁰	5	5	5	5	5	1	
5 x 10 ¹	1	1	5	4	5	0	
5 x 10 ²	1	0	5	2	5	0	
5 x 10 ³	0	1	2	0	5	0	
5 x 10 ⁴	0	0	0	0	0	0	
mucin							5

* Rabbit serum of animals immunized with the indicated antigen.

** Female C.B-17 scid/scid mice (SCID) were challenged intraperitoneally with the indicated colony forming units (CFU) of *P. aeruginosa* serogroup 1 suspended with 0.5 ml of mucin.

*** rabbit serum of animals immunized with *P. aeruginosa* serogroup 1. Statistical analysis (probit analysis for parallel line model); group 1 versus group 3: 85-fold increase in potency, significance (chi-square), 0.002. Group 1 versus group 5; 325-fold increase in potency, significance 0.001

Legends to Figures

Fig. 1

Schematic overview of the constructed recombinant fusion proteins of outer membrane proteins of *P. aeruginosa*.

For expression in *E. coli* K12, the vector pGEX-2a, which codes for glutathion-S-transferase was used.

■ signal sequence of *Kluyveromyces fragilis* killer toxin. □ potential glycosylation site.

▨ GST (aa 1-225). ▩ OprF (aa 190-350).

▤ OprF (aa190-342) ▥ OprI (aa21-83)Fig. 2

Determination of antibody titers against *P. aeruginosa* in sera of mice immunized with the indicated GST linked recombinant outer membrane vaccine or with GST alone. ELISA measurements were carried out on plates coated with sonicated *P. aeruginosa* serogroup 12.

5 **Fig. 3**

Antibody determination by ELISA against synthetic peptides D1-D5 listed in Table 1, which represent B-cell epitopes of OprF. Mice were immunized four times with the indicated recombinant fusion proteins or GST alone.

10 **Fig. 4**

Survival of BALB/c mice after immunization with the indicated vaccine or GST alone, followed by immunosuppression and intraperitoneal challenge with 5, 50, 500 or 5000 colony forming units of *P. aeruginosa* serogroup 1. Bars represent percentage of survivors (n=16-17) per challenge dose.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT:

(A) NAME: Behringwerke Aktiengesellschaft
 (B) STREET: Emil-von-Behring-Str. 76
 (C) CITY: Marburg
 (E) COUNTRY: Germany
 (F) POSTAL CODE (ZIP): 11 40
 (G) TELEPHONE: 0 64 21-39-22 05
 (H) TELEFAX: 0 64 21-39-45 58

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Immunogenic hybrid protein OprI-OprF derived from *P. aeruginosa* membrane proteins

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 8

(iv) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30 (EPO)

(v) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

APPLICATION NUMBER: EP 94120023.0

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 192 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: YES

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

(A) ORGANISM: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
 (F) TISSUE TYPE: Serotype 6; ATCC 33354

(ix) FEATURE:

(A) NAME/KEY: CDS
 (B) LOCATION: 1..189
 (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /note= "Sequence is coding for oprI without signal sequence"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1:

AGC	AGC	CAC	TCC	AAA	GAA	ACC	GAA	GCT	CGT	CTG	ACC	GCT	ACC	GAA	GAC	48
Ser	Ser	His	Ser	Lys	Glu	Thr	Glu	Ala	Arg	Leu	Thr	Ala	Thr	Glu	Asp	
1				5				10						15		
GCA	GCT	GCT	CGT	GCT	CAG	GCT	CGC	GCT	GAC	GAA	GCC	TAT	CGC	AAG	GCT	96
Ala	Ala	Ala	Arg	Ala	Gln	Ala	Arg	Ala	Asp	Glu	Ala	Tyr	Arg	Lys	Ala	
			20					25					30			
GAC	GAA	GCT	CTG	GGC	GCT	GCT	CAG	AAA	GCT	CAG	CAG	ACC	GCT	GAC	GAG	144
Asp	Glu	Ala	Leu	Gly	Ala	Ala	Gln	Lys	Ala	Gln	Gln	Thr	Ala	Asp	Glu	
			35				40						45			

5 GCT AAC GAG CGT GCC CTG CGC ATG CTG GAA AAA GCC AGC CGC AAG 189
Ala Asn Glu Arg Ala Leu Arg Met Leu Glu Lys Ala Ser Arg Lys
50 55 60

TAA 192

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 63 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2:

Ser Ser His Ser Lys Glu Thr Glu Ala Arg Leu Thr Ala Thr Glu Asp
1 5 10 15
Ala Ala Ala Arg Ala Gln Ala Arg Ala Asp Glu Ala Tyr Arg Lys Ala
20 25 30
Asp Glu Ala Leu Gly Ala Ala Gln Lys Ala Gln Gln Thr Ala Asp Glu
35 40 45
Ala Asn Glu Arg Ala Leu Arg Met Leu Glu Lys Ala Ser Arg Lys
50 55 60

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 3:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 486 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: double
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: YES

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

- (A) ORGANISM: Pseudomonas aeruginosa
(F) TISSUE TYPE: Serotype 6; ATCC 33354

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
(B) LOCATION: 1..483
(D) OTHER INFORMATION: /note= "Sequence is coding for oprF C-terminus"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 3:

GCT CCG GCT CCG GAA CCG GTT GCC GAC GTT TGC TCC GAC TCC GAC AAC 48
Ala Pro Ala Pro Glu Pro Val Ala Asp Val Cys Ser Asp Ser Asp Asn
65 70 75
GAC GGC GTC TGC GAC AAC GTC GAC AAG TGC CCG GAC ACC CCG GCC AAC 96
Asp Gly Val Cys Asp Asn Val Asp Lys Cys Pro Asp Thr Pro Ala Asn
80 85 90 95
GTC ACC GTT GAC GCC AAC GGC TGC CCG GCT GTC GCC GAA GTC GTA CGC 144
Val Thr Val Asp Ala Asn Gly Cys Pro Ala Val Ala Glu Val Val Arg
100 105 110

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(A) LENGTH: 161 amino acids
(B) TYPE: amino acid
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

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Val Gly Tyr Gly Glu Ser Arg Pro Val Ala Asp Asn Ala Thr Ala Glu
 130 135 140
 Gly Arg Ala Ile Asn Arg Arg Val Glu Ala Glu Val Glu Ala Glu Ala
 145 150 155 160
 Lys

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 645 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: YES

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

- (A) ORGANISM: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
 (F) TISSUE TYPE: Serotype 6; ATCC 33354

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
 (B) LOCATION: 1..642
 (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /note= "Sequence is coding for oprF
 C-terminus and oprI without signal sequence"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 5:

GCT CCG GAA CCG GTT GCC GAC GTT TGC TCC GAC TCC GAC AAC GAC GGC	48
Ala Pro Glu Pro Val Ala Asp Val Cys Ser Asp Ser Asp Asn Asp Gly	
165 170 175	
GTC TGC GAC AAC GTC GAC AAG TGC CCG GAC ACC CCG GCC AAC GTC ACC	96
Val Cys Asp Asn Val Asp Lys Cys Pro Asp Thr Pro Ala Asn Val Thr	
180 185 190	
GTT GAC GCC AAC GGC TGC CCG GCT GTC GCC GAA GTC GTA CGC GTA CAG	144
Val Asp Ala Asn Gly Cys Pro Ala Val Ala Glu Val Val Arg Val Gln	
195 200 205	
CTG GAC GTG AAG TTC GAC TTC GAC AAG TCC AAG GTC AAA GAG AAC AGC	192
Leu Asp Val Lys Phe Asp Phe Asp Lys Ser Lys Val Lys Glu Asn Ser	
210 215 220 225	
TAC GCT GAC ATC AAG AAC CTG GCC GAC TTC ATG AAG CAG TAC CCG TCC	240
Tyr Ala Asp Ile Lys Asn Leu Ala Asp Phe Met Lys Gln Tyr Pro Ser	
230 235 240	
ACT TCC ACC ACC GTT GAA GGT CAT ACC GAC TCC GTC GGT ACC GAC GCT	288
Thr Ser Thr Thr Val Glu Gly His Thr Asp Ser Val Gly Thr Asp Ala	
245 250 255	
TAC AAC CAG AAG CTG TCC GAG CGT CGT GCC AAC GCC GTT CGT GAC GTA	336
Tyr Asn Gln Lys Leu Ser Glu Arg Ala Asn Ala Val Arg Asp Val	
260 265 270	
CTG GTC AAC GAG TAC GGT GTG GAA GGT GGT CGC GTG AAC GCT GTC GGT	384
Leu Val Asn Glu Tyr Gly Val Glu Gly Gly Arg Val Asn Ala Val Gly	

	275	280	285	
5	TAC GGC GAG TCC CGC CCG GTT GCC GAC AAC GCC ACC GCT GAA GGC CGC			432
	Tyr Gly Glu Ser Arg Pro Val Ala Asp Asn Ala Thr Ala Glu Gly Arg	295	300	305
	GCT ATC AAC CGT CGC GTT GAA AGC AGC CAC TCC AAA GAA ACC GAA GCT			480
	Ala Ile Asn Arg Arg Val Glu Ser Ser His Ser Lys Glu Thr Glu Ala	310	315	320
10	CGT CTG ACC GCT ACC GAA GAC GCA GCT GCT CGT GCT CAG GCT CGC GCT			528
	Arg Leu Thr Ala Thr Glu Asp Ala Ala Ala Arg Ala Gln Ala Arg Ala	325	330	335
	GAC GAA GCC TAT CGC AAG GCT GAC GAA GCT CTG GGC GCT GCT CAG AAA			576
15	Asp Glu Ala Tyr Arg Lys Ala Asp Glu Ala Leu Gly Ala Ala Gln Lys	340	345	350
	GCT CAG CAG ACC GCT GAC GAG GCT AAC GAG CGT GCC CTG CGC ATG CTG			624
	Ala Gln Gln Thr Ala Asp Glu Ala Asn Glu Arg Ala Leu Arg Met Leu	355	360	365
20	GAA AAA GCC AGC CGC AAG TAA			645
	Glu Lys Ala Ser Arg Lys	370	375	

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 6:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 214 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 6:

Ala	Pro	Glu	Pro	Val	Ala	Asp	Val	Cys	Ser	Asp	Ser	Asp	Asn	Asp	Gly
1				5					10					15	
Val	Cys	Asp	Asn	Val	Asp	Lys	Cys	Pro	Asp	Thr	Pro	Ala	Asn	Val	Thr
			20					25					30		
Val	Asp	Ala	Asn	Gly	Cys	Pro	Ala	Val	Ala	Glu	Val	Val	Arg	Val	Gln
		35				40						45			
Leu	Asp	Val	Lys	Phe	Asp	Phe	Asp	Lys	Ser	Lys	Val	Lys	Glu	Asn	Ser
	50				55					60					
Tyr	Ala	Asp	Ile	Lys	Asn	Leu	Ala	Asp	Phe	Met	Lys	Gln	Tyr	Pro	Ser
	65				70				75					80	
Thr	Ser	Thr	Thr	Val	Glu	Gly	His	Thr	Asp	Ser	Val	Gly	Thr	Asp	Ala
				85				90					95		
Tyr	Asn	Gln	Lys	Leu	Ser	Glu	Arg	Arg	Ala	Asn	Ala	Val	Arg	Asp	Val
			100					105					110		
Leu	Val	Asn	Glu	Tyr	Gly	Val	Glu	Gly	Gly	Arg	Val	Asn	Ala	Val	Gly
		115				120						125			
Tyr	Gly	Glu	Ser	Arg	Pro	Val	Ala	Asp	Asn	Ala	Thr	Ala	Glu	Gly	Arg
	130					135					140				
Ala	Ile	Asn	Arg	Arg	Val	Glu	Ser	Ser	His	Ser	Lys	Glu	Thr	Glu	Ala
	145				150					155					160

Arg Leu Thr Ala Thr Glu Asp Ala Ala Ala Arg Ala Gln Ala Arg Ala
 165 170 175
 Asp Glu Ala Tyr Arg Lys Ala Asp Glu Ala Leu Gly Ala Ala Gln Lys
 180 185 190
 Ala Gln Gln Thr Ala Asp Glu Ala Asn Glu Arg Ala Leu Arg Met Leu
 195 200 205
 Glu Lys Ala Ser Arg Lys
 210

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 681 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: YES

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

- (A) ORGANISM: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
 (F) TISSUE TYPE: Serotype 6; ATCC 33354

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
 (B) LOCATION: 1..678
 (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /note= "Sequence is coding for oprI
 without signal sequence and oprF C-terminus"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 7:

AGC AGC CAC TCC AAA GAA ACC GAA GCT CGT CTG ACC GCT ACC GAA GAC	48
Ser Ser His Ser Lys Glu Thr Glu Ala Arg Leu Thr Ala Thr Glu Asp	
215 220 225 230	
CA GCT GCT CGT GCT CAG GCT CGC GCT GAC GAA GCC TAT CGC AAG GCT	96
Ala Ala Ala Arg Ala Gln Ala Arg Ala Asp Glu Ala Tyr Arg Lys Ala	
235 240 245	
GAC GAA GCT CTG GGC GCT GCT CAG AAA GCT CAG CAG ACC GCT GAC GAG	144
Asp Glu Ala Leu Gly Ala Ala Gln Lys Ala Gln Gln Thr Ala Asp Glu	
250 255 260	
GCT AAC GAG CGT GCC CTG CGC ATG CTG GAA AAA GCC AGC CGC AAG GAG	192
Ala Asn Glu Arg Ala Leu Arg Met Leu Glu Lys Ala Ser Arg Lys Glu	
265 270 275	
CTC GCT CCG GCT CCG GAA CCG GTT GCC GAC GTT TGC TCC GAC TCC GAC	240
Leu Ala Pro Ala Pro Glu Pro Val Ala Asp Val Cys Ser Asp Ser Asp	
280 285 290	
AAC GAC GGC GTC TGC GAC AAC GTC GAC AAG TGC CCG GAC ACC CCG GCC	288
Asn Asp Gly Val Cys Asp Asn Val Asp Lys Cys Pro Asp Thr Pro Ala	
295 300 305 310	
AAC GTC ACC GTT GAC GCC AAC GGC TGC CCG GCT GTC GCC GAA GTC GTA	336
Asn Val Thr Val Asp Ala Asn Gly Cys Pro Ala Val Ala Glu Val Val	
315 320 325	

5 CGC GTA CAG CTG GAC GTG AAG TTC GAC TTC GAC AAG TCC AAG GTC AAA 384
 Arg Val Gln Leu Asp Val Lys Phe Asp Phe Asp Lys Ser Lys Val Lys
 330 335 340
 GAG AAC AGC TAC GCT GAC ATC AAG AAC CTG GCC GAC TTC ATG AAG CAG 432
 Glu Asn Ser Tyr Ala Asp Ile Lys Asn Leu Ala Asp Phe Met Lys Gln
 345 350 355
 10 TAC CCG TCC ACT TCC ACC ACC GTT GAA GGT CAT ACC GAC TCC GTC GGT 480
 Tyr Pro Ser Thr Ser Thr Thr Val Glu Gly His Thr Asp Ser Val Gly
 360 365 370
 ACC GAC GCT TAC AAC CAG AAG CTG TCC GAG CGT CGT GCC AAC GCC GTT 528
 Thr Asp Ala Tyr Asn Gln Lys Leu Ser Glu Arg Arg Ala Asn Ala Val
 375 380 385 390
 15 CGT GAC GTA CTG GTC AAC GAG TAC GGT GTG GAA GGT GGT CGC GTG AAC 576
 Arg Asp Val Leu Val Asn Glu Tyr Gly Val Glu Gly Gly Arg Val Asn
 395 400 405
 GCT GTC GGT TAC GGC GAG TCC CGC CCG GTT GCC GAC AAC GCC ACC GCT 624
 Ala Val Gly Tyr Gly Glu Ser Arg Pro Val Ala Asp Asn Ala Thr Ala
 410 415 420
 GAA GGC CGC GCT ATC AAC CGT CGC GTT GAA GCC GAA GTA GAA GCC GAA 672
 Glu Gly Arg Ala Ile Asn Arg Arg Val Glu Ala Glu Val Glu Ala Glu
 425 430 435
 25 GCC AAG TAA 681
 Ala Lys
 440

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 8:

30 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 226 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
 35 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 8:
 Ser Ser His Ser Lys Glu Thr Glu Ala Arg Leu Thr Ala Thr Glu Asp
 1 5 10 15
 Ala Ala Ala Arg Ala Gln Ala Arg Ala Asp Glu Ala Tyr Arg Lys Ala
 20 25 30
 Asp Glu Ala Leu Gly Ala Ala Gln Lys Ala Gln Gln Thr Ala Asp Glu
 35 40 45
 Ala Asn Glu Arg Ala Leu Arg Met Leu Glu Lys Ala Ser Arg Lys Glu
 50 55 60
 45 Leu Ala Pro Ala Pro Glu Pro Val Ala Asp Val Cys Ser Asp Ser Asp
 65 70 75 80
 Asn Asp Gly Val Cys Asp Asn Val Asp Lys Cys Pro Asp Thr Pro Ala
 85 90 95
 50 Asn Val Thr Val Asp Ala Asn Gly Cys Pro Ala Val Ala Glu Val Val
 100 105 110
 Arg Val Gln Leu Asp Val Lys Phe Asp Phe Asp Lys Ser Lys Val Lys
 115 120 125

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[illegible]

Claims

1. A hybrid protein comprising the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein I which is fused with its amino terminal end to the carboxy terminal end of a carboxy terminal portion of the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein F, said carboxy terminal portion comprising the sequence from aa 190 to aa 350.
2. The hybrid protein as claimed in claim 1, wherein said carboxy terminal portion is the sequence from aa 190 to aa 342.
3. A hybrid protein comprising the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein I which is fused with its amino terminal end to the carboxy terminal end of a carboxy terminal portion of the *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* outer membrane protein F, said carboxy terminal portion comprising at least one surface-exposed B-cell epitope selected from the group consisting of SEE 1, SEE 2, SEE 3 and SEE 4.
4. A vaccine comprising a hybrid protein as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3.
5. Monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies against the hybrid protein as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3.
6. A vaccine comprising the antibodies as claimed in claim 5.
7. A nucleic acid, coding for the hybrid protein as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3.
8. A process for the preparation of the hybrid protein as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, which comprises bringing about the expression of the nucleic acid as claimed in claim 7 in pro- or eukaryotic cells.

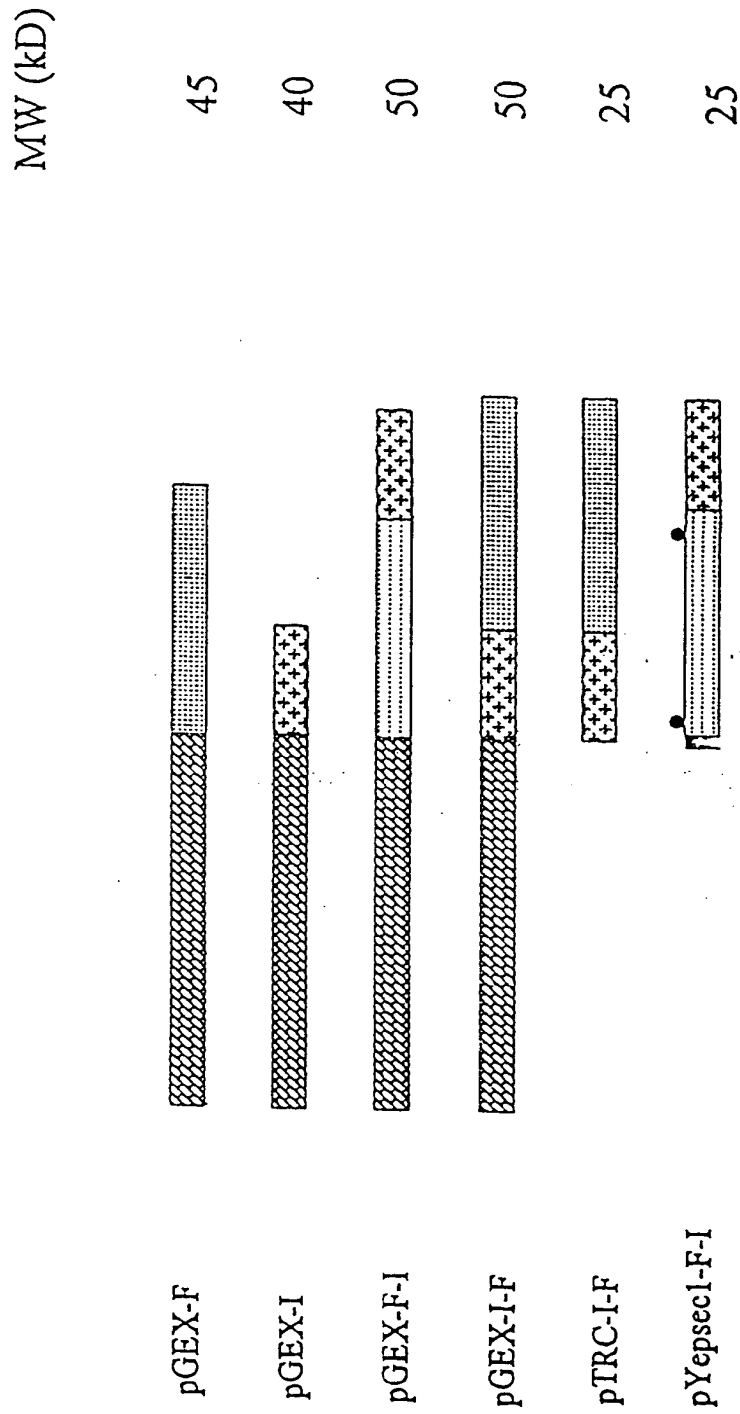


FIG.1

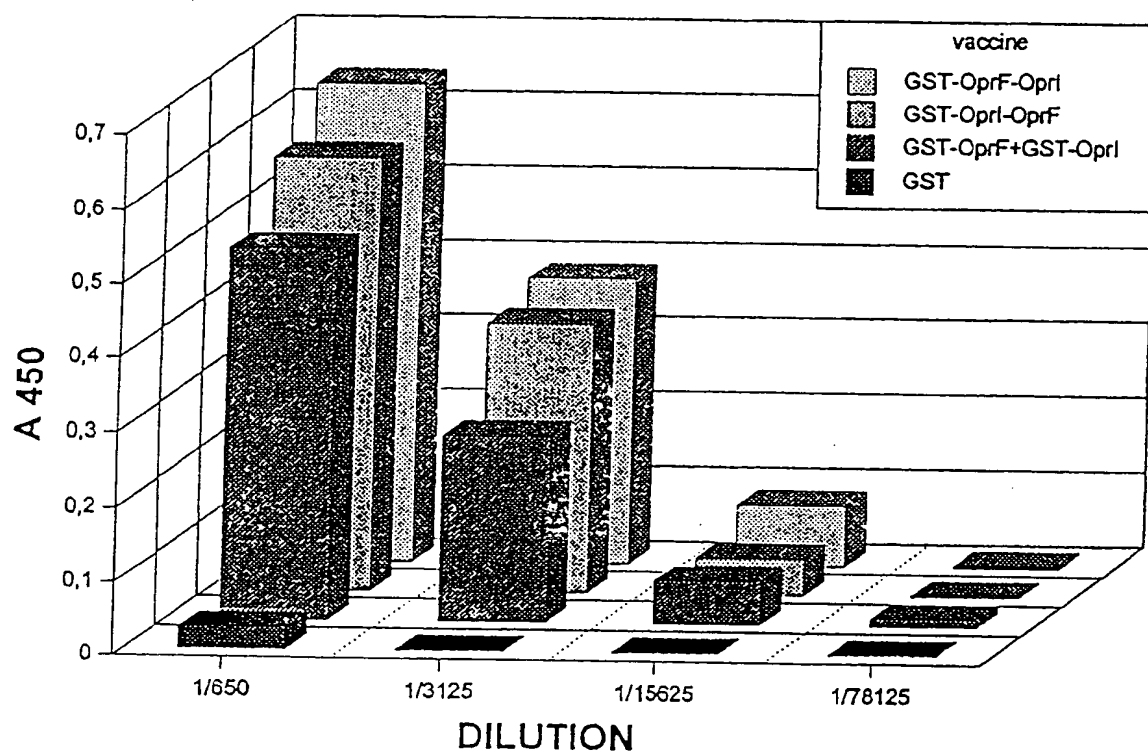


FIG. 2

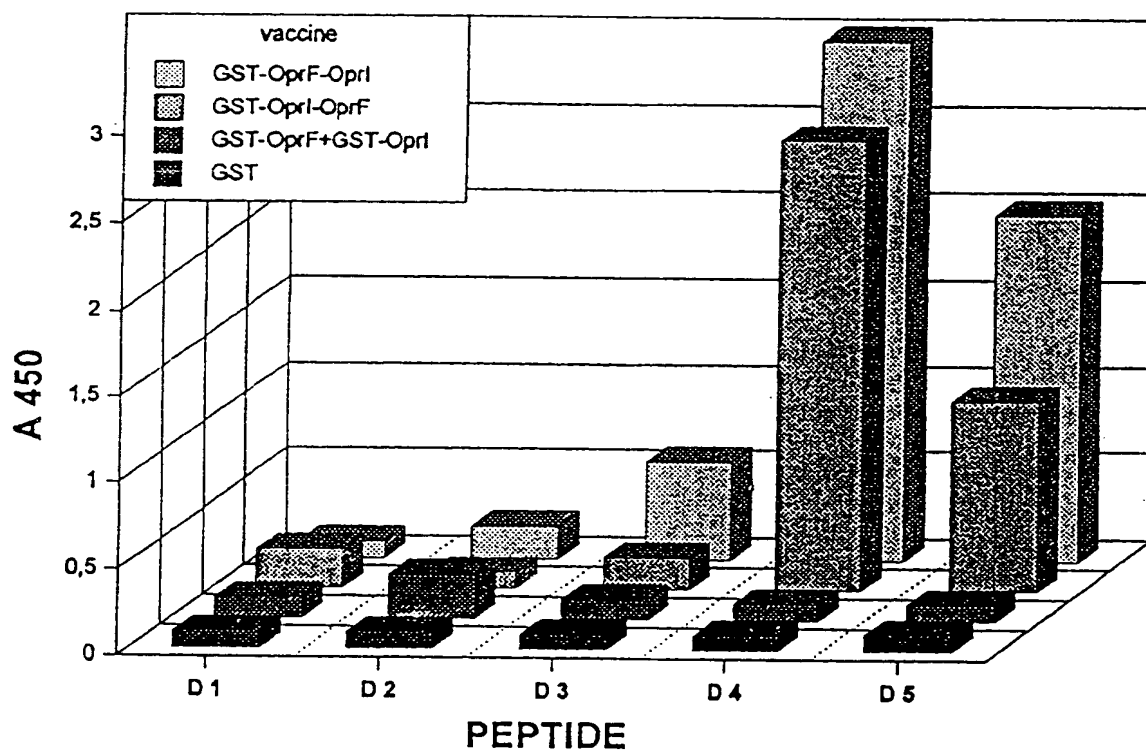


FIG.3

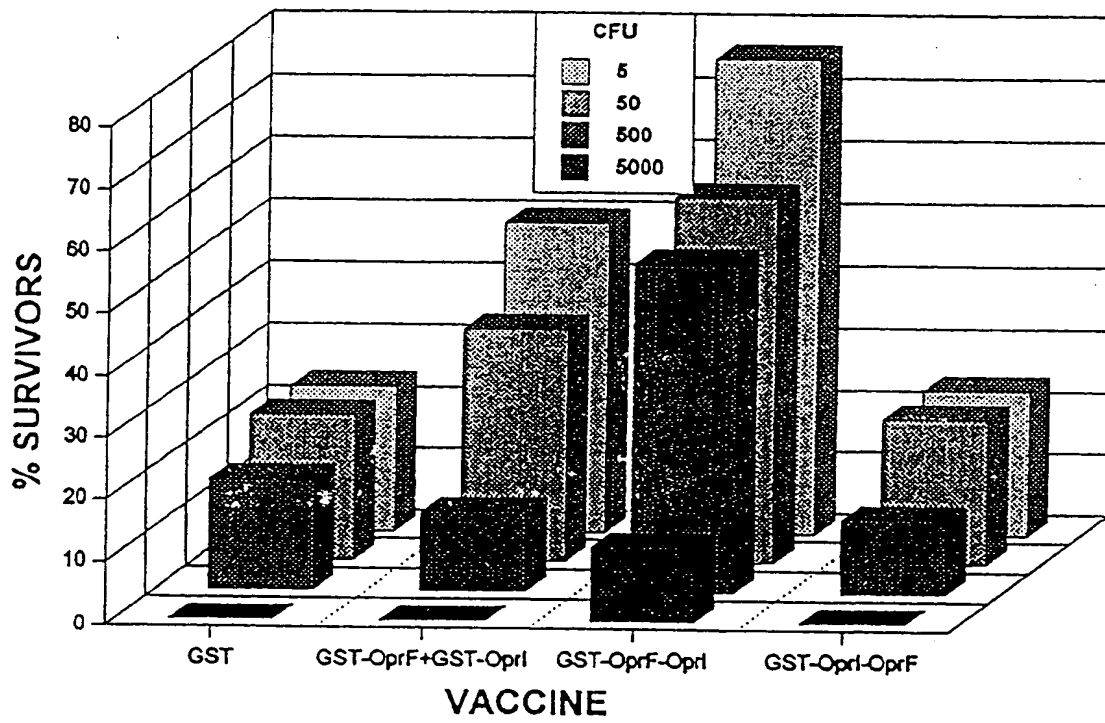


FIG.4



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 11 8098

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	BEHRING INST. MITT., vol. 95, pages 85-96, VON SPECHT ET AL. 'Outer membrane proteins of Pseudomonas aeruginosa as vaccine candidates' * the whole document *	1-8	C12N15/31 C12N15/62 C07K14/21 C07K19/00 C07K16/12 A61K39/104 //(C07K14/21, C12R1:385)
Y	J. BACTERIOL., vol. 174, no. 15, pages 4977-4985, FINNEN ET AL. 'Analysis of the Pseudomonas aeruginosa major outer membrane protein OprF by use of truncated OprF derivatives and monoclonal antibodies' * abstract * * page 4982 * * page 4983, right column * * page 4984 *	1,2,4-8	
Y,D	INFECT. IMMUN., vol. 59, no. 4, pages 1251-1254, FINKE ET AL. 'Protection of immunosuppressed mice against infection with Pseudomonas aeruginosa by recombinant P-aeruginosa Lipoprotein I and lipoprotein I-specific monoclonal antibodies' * the whole document *	1,2,4-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) C12N C07K
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 5 March 1996	Examiner Gac, G
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 (12.82) (P04C01)



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 11 8098

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A,D	INFECT. IMMUN., vol. 60, no. 9, pages 3497-3503, HUGHES ET AL. 'Synthetic peptides representing epitopes of outer membrane protein F of Pseudomonas aeruginosa that elicit antibodies reactive with whole cells of heterologous immunotype strains of P. aeruginosa' * the whole document *	1-8	
A	WO-A-93 24636 (THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA) 9 December 1993 * the whole document *	1-8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 5 March 1996	Examiner Gac, G
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>I : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date U : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EP 0 FORM 150 (03.92) (Pw/CU)

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